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OENOLOGY (OR MAN'S NOT LESS THAN A GRAPE)

They say the finest wines
need special soil and special sun,
and even so the grapes
are picked from bunches one by one,

then crushed and stored and aged
in special casks and special spots,
and carefully assayed
from time to time in sample lots.

If man, unlike the grape,
were picked a la ideological,
by race or creed or color
for purpose pedagogical,

the best might often stay
behind, left clinging to a stalk,
and we might overlook,
alas, an Osler or a Salk.

Great grapes might be rejected,
the best not be selected,
if quotas were expected
and the future not projected.

SAMUEL STEARNS, M.D.

END